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WEDNESDAY
JUNE 24, 1953

Monsieur Pinay, after sounding out the leaders of the various Parties, has decided not to seek investiture and the mantle will now fall on the shoulders of Monsieur Laniel, an Independent.

Messrs. Bombassei and Lombardo called on me to say how sorry Prime Minister de Gasperi was that we had not been able to meet in Paris. I have arranged to go to Rome next week, taking E. and Audrey with me, and I will see him and some of the other Italian political figures. The composition and policies of the Italian Government which will shortly be installed are still obscure and I gather de Gasperi has made no final decisions on these subjects.

Eric Gibbs of Time Magazine came in to discuss European unity movements. He has been preparing a piece on Jean Monnet but is going to recommend it not be published until after the German elections.

I had lunch with Bert Jolis at the Marigny Restaurant. Our talk ranged over a great variety of subjects and finally concentrated on Communist activities in Africa.

E., Audrey and I went down to Versailles, had a picnic supper there and spent the night. The Boys were happy chasing rabbits. Bru has been severely crippled with rheumatism but seems to shake off his ailment as soon as he can catch the scent of any wild creature. Although the rabbit disease appears to have made heavy inroads on them elsewhere, our little enclosure at Versailles holds at least half a dozen of them. It is a wonderful place to sleep except that the birds in the early morning seem to me noisier than the motor cars in town.

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